

MR. SWARTOUT: Thanks. I'm John Swartout. I'm a Senior Environment and Natural Resources Advisor to Governor Hickenlooper. And thank you, Linda, for being here. We appreciate the outreach. And Ruth, thank you so much. The State has a great working relationship with BLM. And it's because of the good people like Linda and Ruth in the State office that makes that relationship possible. I'd also like to begin and echo what Senator Bennet's office said. You know, Secretary Jewell of the Interior Department, has been a good friend to Colorado. We really appreciate the work that she and Janice Schneider, the Undersecretary, and Office of Surface Mining put in on Trapper and Colowyo Mine. That was critical that we keep those jobs in place. And it was a heroic effort on behalf of Interior in extra time and going the extra mile to make sure that those jobs were preserved because of, because of litigation and other things. That's very much appreciated. And the Governor wanted me to make sure that I thanked Interior for that, for that work. The other thing I would say is that, you know, coal is a critical component of Colorado's balanced energy portfolio. And we, we anticipate that that'll be so in the future, as well. It's a critical component and the jobs are important to our State and livelihood, especially our rural areas. And while this review is certainly appropriate, we also ask that you expedite it. One of, one of the issues with, with the coal market globally and in, in the United States today is there's a lot of uncertainty. That uncertainty makes it difficult for these companies to access capital. It creates uncertainty. We've had a number of mine closures in Colorado already. And those have had significant impacts on, on our local governments across -- especially the Western Slope. So, we think that expediting this, fair and balanced, but expediting this as quickly as you can. And this review would be extremely helpful to -- directed toward that uncertainty issues. You know Colorado has been a leader in balancing environmental protections with the health of our economy. Back, you know, almost 25 years ago, Governor Roy Romer said when he got industry together to reduce admissions, especially on the Front Range, he said I want to look at industry as a partner and not, you know, create an adversarial relationship. So, the other thing that we ask is that you treat industry and folks that are commenting as partners in this effort. I mean we all want to live on a

healthy planet. We all want jobs. We all want that balance. And we think -- the Governor thinks that we can do both. We can have a healthy coal industry that provides a portion of our energy generation into the future, while we protect the environment. And they're not exclusive. You know the politics that we live in today tends to be a duality. It's this or that. It's either/or. But, but Colorado has always found a way to balance those things and go forward. And we ask that this review -- you keep, you keep that in mind. And I'd like to echo something that my friend Brian Meinhart in Congressman Tipton's office said. You know these are, you know, we look at stuff in newspapers and publications in Washington, D.C. And what we see are statistics and numbers. These are families. These families are critical to the communities that they live in. These jobs provide for those families. These jobs are critical. And we ask that you listen to these people today. It's very important. They're not a number. They're human beings. And you know, this, this industry has sustained the people of the Western Slope for a long time. And we'd just ask that you move in a fair and balanced way and expedite it as much as you can. Thank you.